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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE, SWAZILAND, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, AND ZAMBIA

Assistance in Transit-Transport for the Land-Locked Southern African Sub-Region (RAF/77/017)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval :	March 1979
Starting date of project activities :	August 1978 (Including previous assistance)
Planned completion date :	June 1980
To be executed by :	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Government implementing agencies :	All relevant Ministries
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval :	$403 900
Source of UNDP financing :	Regional Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The difficulty of access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness and isolation from world markets and by additional transportation, transit and trans-shipment costs, poses serious constraints to the development of land-locked developing countries. Several United Nations resolutions have urged the international community to assist these countries through appropriate programmes of financial and technical assistance aimed at mitigating their geographical handicap.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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2. Zambia, in particular, has gradually grown to rely on the Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam for the transport of its exports and imports. Tanzania, on the other hand, is faced with serious problems of congestion in its main deep-water harbour and internal transport facilities, resulting from the increasing volume of Zambia transit traffic. Zambia's situation became critical in early 1978, and President Kaunda in May 1978 approached the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme concerning emergency assistance.

3. A small allocation had previously been approved for Preparatory Assistance in order to enable UNCTAD to undertake an overview of the transit-transport difficulties of the sub-region and lay the groundwork for a comprehensive cost analysis of each of the twelve major transit routes. This task is completed and UNCTAD has issued a report which includes a draft document for a full-scale project to be funded by UNDP, currently being considered by the Governments concerned.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The over-all objective of the project is to facilitate the transit-transport of Zambian exports to and imports from the Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam, in complementing assistance measures being undertaken by bilateral and other multilateral donors. The project will produce: (a) a viable legal framework for Dar es Salaam port authorities for the disposal of unclaimed, damaged or otherwise unwanted goods destined for Zambia; (b) technical reports containing recommendations for the reorganization of over-all procurement policies and planning, including the issues of cargo mix and storage as well as documentation and procedures; (c) high-level advice on the management of rail and road services for the Zambia/Dar es Salaam corridor; and (d) an information system for the forecast of foreign exchange needs related to transit-transport for Zambia.

III. Inputs

5. Under the assistance now approved, UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, a team of medium-term (3 to 12 months) specialists in various disciplines, such as: cargo surveyor, port and customs administration specialist, shipping expert, storage specialist, transit documentation expert, railway and road operations specialists and financial economist; and some administrative support personnel.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows :

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total approved
	$	$	$
Personnel	84 250	368 300	452 550
Equipment	750	29 300	30 050
Miscellaneous		6 300	6 300
	85 000	403 900	488 900